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Letter dated 29 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 April 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement which was made by Mr. A. J. Jacovides, the Greek Cypriot representative, at the meeting of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations on 23 April 1993. Since the Turkish Cypriot side, owing to no fault of its own, is not represented in the Committee, I am compelled to exercise our right of reply in writing.

In his statement, Mr. Jacovides paid lip service to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and repeated, ad nauseam, the unfounded allegations of the Greek Cypriot side against Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side. I wish to stress at the outset that the administration which he represents, with its past record and present practices, is among the least qualified to talk about violations of the Charter of the United Nations, let alone blame others for doing so.

The architects of the so-called "Akritas Plan", a notorious scheme devised by the Greek Cypriot leadership in the early 1960s and aimed at destroying the Turkish Cypriot component of the bi-national Republic of Cyprus of 1960, both politically and physically, cannot possibly have anything to say about human rights or respect for the high principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The very title under which the Greek Cypriot representative operates today is an illegitimate one usurped by force of arms in 1963. The Greek Cypriot side has been exploiting this title to the maximum in the propaganda onslaught that it has launched against the Turkish Cypriots, particularly since 1974.

No amount of rhetoric, however, can confuse the issue or cover up the fact that it was the Greek Cypriots who practised the sinister method of "ethnic cleansing" or worse in Cyprus between 1963-1974. As a testimony to the severity of that campaign, the British newspaper The Guardian, in an article dated 16 February 1993, described the Cyprus of that period as "the mini-Bosnia of its day". (A more detailed reply to the Greek Cypriot allegations on "ethnic cleansing" can be found in document A/46/964-S/24490.) The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was sent to Cyprus in order to protect the Turkish Cypriots against this aggression and not to provide protection for the Greek Cypriot aggressors, as Mr. Jacovides claims.

It was ultimately Turkey's timely and legitimate intervention in 1974 which effectively checked the genocidal attacks of the Greek Cypriots and created a safe haven for the Turkish Cypriots in Northern Cyprus. The use of the term "invasion" for a rescue operation which has liberated us from an 11-year-long ordeal at the hands of the Greeks and Greek Cypriots shows utter contempt for human life on their part. It also demonstrates how far the Greek Cypriots are from identifying the true cause of the Cyprus question, which is their age-old campaign to turn Cyprus into a Greek island, and, therefore, how far they are from reaching a just and viable solution with us.

The above mentality also prevails in the remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative about the border incident of 8 April 1993. It is clear that the Greek Cypriot side prefers to exploit this unfortunate incident for political ends rather than treat it, as it should, in a humane manner. Since the facts on this incident have been amply explained in document A/47/928-S/25628, I need not repeat them here.

In conclusion, I wish to put on record the Turkish Cypriot side's indignation at the unwarranted exploitation by the Greek Cypriot side, of this occasion as a platform for malicious propaganda, and to state that with every new such instance it only exacerbates the crisis of confidence that exists between the two peoples of the island, further damaging efforts for a negotiated solution.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus